

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 In an optical wavelength multiplex
5 transmission method for multiplexing signal light waves
of a plurality of channels having different wavelengths
and transmitting the multiplexed signal light using an
optical fiber, the improvement wherein:

10 a four wave mixing suppressing guard band of a
predetermined bandwidth including a zero-dispersion
wavelength of said optical fiber is set; and

the signal light waves of the plurality of channels to be multiplexed are arranged on one of a shorter wavelength side and a longer wavelength side outside the guard band.

2. In an optical wavelength multiplex transmission method for multiplexing signal light waves of a plurality of channels having different wavelengths and transmitting the multiplexed signal light using an optical fiber, the improvement wherein:

25 a four wave mixing suppressing guard band of a
predetermined bandwidth including a zero-dispersion
wavelength of said optical fiber is set; and

the signal light waves of the plurality of channels to be multiplexed are arranged on the opposite

1 sides of a shorter wavelength side and a longer
wavelength side outside the guard band.

5 3. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission
method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the bandwidths of
the guard bands are set in an asymmetrical relationship
on the shorter wavelength side and the longer wavelength
side with respect to the zero-dispersion wavelength of
10 said optical fiber.

15 4. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission
method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the channel
spacings between adjacent ones of the signal light waves
of the plurality of channels are set different on the
shorter wavelength side and the longer wavelength side
outside the guard band.

20 5. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission
method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the channel
spacings between adjacent ones of the signal light waves
of the plurality of channels on each of the shorter
25 wavelength side and the longer wavelength side outside
the guard band are set to an integral number of times a
constant.

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1 ~~6. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission~~
method as claimed in claim 5. wherein the channel
spacings between the channels of the signal light waves
of the plurality of channels on the opposite sides of
5 the guard band are set to the integral number of times
the constant.

10 7. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission
method as claimed in claim 3. wherein the signal light
waves of the channels are arranged such that the signal
light waves of no pair or only one pair of ones of the
channels have dispersion values which have an equal
absolute value.

15 8. In an optical wavelength multiplex
transmission method for multiplexing signal light waves
of a plurality of channels having different wavelengths
20 and transmitting the multiplexed signal light using an
optical fiber, the improvement wherein:

taking a zero-dispersion wavelength λ_0 of said
optical fiber and a zero-dispersion wavelength deviation
range $\pm\Delta\lambda_0$ of said optical fiber in its longitudinal
25 direction into consideration, the signal light waves of
the plurality of channels to be multiplexed are arranged
on a shorter wavelength side than a shorter wavelength

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0600 **0700** **0800** **0900** **1000** **1100** **1200** **1300** **1400** **1500**

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1 11. An optical wavelength multiplex
transmission method as claimed in claim 10, wherein a
four wave mixing suppressing guard band $\Delta\lambda_g$ is provided
on the longer wavelength side than the longer wavelength
5 end $\lambda_0 + \Delta\lambda_0$ of the zero-dispersion wavelength deviation
range of said optical fiber, and the signal light waves
of the plurality of channels are arranged on a longer
wavelength side than a wavelength $\lambda_0 + \Delta\lambda_0 + \Delta\lambda_g$.

10 12. An optical wavelength multiplex
transmission method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the
signal light waves of the plurality of channels are
arranged within a transmissible band defined by an
15 allowable dispersion value determined from a synergetic
effect of self phase modulation and group velocity
dispersion in said optical fiber.

20 13. An optical wavelength multiplex
transmission method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the
signal light waves of the plurality of channels are
arranged within a transmissible band defined by an
allowable dispersion value determined from a synergetic
25 effect of self phase modulation and group velocity
dispersion in said optical fiber.

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15 15. An optical wavelength multiplex
transmission method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the
signal light waves of the plurality of channels are
arranged outside the transmissible band defined by the
allowable dispersion value determined from the
20 synergetic effect of self phase modulation and group
velocity dispersion in said optical fiber, and the zero
dispersion wavelength λ_0 of said optical fiber is
apparently shifted using an optical dispersion
compensator to apparently arrange the signal light waves
25 of the plurality of channels into the transmissible
band.

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10 19. An optical wavelength multiplex
transmission method as claimed in claim 15. wherein,
taking a dispersion compensation amount deviation range
 $\pm \delta \lambda_{bc}$ of said optical dispersion compensator into
consideration, a band $\Delta \lambda_{wm}$ within which the signal
15 light waves of the plurality of channels are to be
arranged is set expanding the same by the dispersion
compensation amount deviation range $\delta \lambda_{bc}$ on the opposite
sides of the longer wavelength side and the shorter
wavelength side.

20. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the signal light waves of the plurality of channels are arranged in a gain band of an optical amplifier connected to said optical fiber.

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[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

1 channels.

32. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission method as claimed in claim 16, wherein a band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{WDM}}$ within which the signal light waves of the plurality of channels are to be arranged is set expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of channels.

33. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission method as claimed in claim 17, wherein a band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{opt}}$ within which the signal light waves of the plurality of channels are to be arranged is set expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of channels.

34. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission method as claimed in claim 18, wherein a band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{WDM}}$ within which the signal light waves of the plurality of channels are to be arranged is set

25 ~~expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of~~

1 channels.

35. An optical wavelength multiplex
transmission method as claimed in claim 19, wherein a
band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{wom}}$ within which the signal light waves of the
plurality of channels are to be arranged is set
expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength
variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of
channels.

36. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission method as claimed in claim 20, wherein a band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{WDM}}$ within which the signal light waves of the plurality of channels are to be arranged is set expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of channels.

37. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission method as claimed in claim 21, wherein a band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{com}}$ within which the signal light waves of the plurality of channels are to be arranged is set expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of

1 channels.

5 38. An optical wavelength multiplex
transmission method as claimed in claim 22, wherein a
band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{wom}}$ within which the signal light waves of the
plurality of channels are to be arranged is set
expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength
variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of
10 channels.

15 39. An optical wavelength multiplex
transmission method as claimed in claim 23, wherein a
band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{wom}}$ within which the signal light waves of the
plurality of channels are to be arranged is set
expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength
variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of
channels.

20 40. An optical wavelength multiplex
transmission method as claimed in claim 24, wherein a
band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{wom}}$ within which the signal light waves of the
25 plurality of channels are to be arranged is set
expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength
variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of

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channels.

41. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission method as claimed in claim 25, wherein a band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{WDM}}$ within which the signal light waves of the plurality of channels are to be arranged is set expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of channels.

42. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission method as claimed in claim 26, wherein a band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{WDM}}$ within which the signal light waves of the plurality of channels are to be arranged is set expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of channels.

43. An optical wavelength multiplex transmission method as claimed in claim 27, wherein a band $\Delta\lambda_{\text{WDM}}$ within which the signal light waves of the plurality of channels are to be arranged is set expanding the same in accordance with optical wavelength variations of the signal light waves of the plurality of

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44. An optical dispersion compensation method for compensating for a dispersion amount of an optical transmission system which includes a transmitter, a repeater and a receiver and transmits signal light from said transmitter to said receiver by way of said repeater, comprising the steps of:

10 preparing in advance two kinds of optical
dispersion compensator units having dispersion amounts
having different positive and negative signs;

inserting the two kinds of optical dispersion
compensator units separately into said optical
15 transmission system; and

selecting one of the two kinds of optical dispersion compensator units which provides a better transmission characteristic to said optical transmission system and incorporating the selected optical dispersion compensator unit into said optical transmission system.

45. An optical dispersion compensation method for compensating for a dispersion amount of an optical transmission system which includes a transmitter, a repeater and a receiver and transmits signal light from said transmitter to said receiver by way of said

1 repeater, comprising the steps of:

~~preparing in advance two kinds of optical~~
dispersion compensator units having dispersion amounts
having different positive and negative signs:

5 measuring a dispersion amount of said optical
transmission system; and

selecting one of the two kinds of optical
dispersion compensator units which has a dispersion
amount whose sign is opposite to that of a measured
10 dispersion amount and incorporating the selected optical
dispersion compensator unit into said optical
transmission system.

15 46. An optical dispersion compensation method
for compensating for a dispersion amount of an optical
transmission system which includes a transmitter, a
repeater and a receiver and transmits signal light from
said transmitter to said receiver by way of said
20 repeater, comprising the steps of:

preparing in advance a plurality of kinds of
optical dispersion compensator units having different
dispersion amounts having different positive and
negative signs;

25 selectively inserting the plurality of kinds of
optical dispersion compensator units into said optical
transmission system changing the installation number and

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selecting an installation number and a combination of the optical dispersion compensator units from within the plurality of kinds of optical dispersion compensator units which provide a good transmission characteristic to said optical transmission system and incorporating the optical dispersion compensator units of the selected installation number and combination into said optical transmission system.

47. An optical dispersion compensation method for compensating for a dispersion amount of an optical transmission system which includes a transmitter, a repeater and a receiver and transmits signal light from said transmitter to said receiver by way of said repeater, comprising the steps of:

20 preparing in advance a plurality of kinds of optical dispersion compensator units having different dispersion amounts having different positive and negative signs;

measuring a dispersion amount of said optical transmission system; and

25 selecting an installation number and a
 combination of the optical dispersion compensator units
 from within the plurality of kinds of optical dispersion

1 compensator units, with which dispersion values of the
signal light waves fall within a transmissible
dispersion value range, in accordance with a measured
dispersion value and incorporating the optical
5 dispersion compensator units of the selected
installation number and combination into said optical
transmission system.

10 48. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 44, wherein the optical dispersion
compensator units are additionally incorporated into at
least one of said transmitter, said repeater and said
receiver of said optical transmission system to
15 incorporate the optical dispersion compensator units
into said optical transmission system.

20 49. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 45, wherein the optical dispersion
compensator units are additionally incorporated into at
least one of said transmitter, said repeater and said
receiver of said optical transmission system to
incorporate the optical dispersion compensator units
25 into said optical transmission system.

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1 50. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 46. wherein the optical dispersion
compensator units are additionally incorporated into at
least one of said transmitter, said repeater and said
5 receiver of said optical transmission system to
incorporate the optical dispersion compensator units
into said optical transmission system.

10 51. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 47. wherein the optical dispersion
compensator units are additionally incorporated into at
least one of said transmitter, said repeater and said
receiver of said optical transmission system to
15 incorporate the optical dispersion compensator units
into said optical transmission system.

20 52. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 50. wherein, when said optical
transmission system performs optical wavelength
multiplex transmission to multiplex and transmit signal
light waves of a plurality of channels having different
wavelengths, the signal light waves are demultiplexed
25 for each one wave by wavelength demultiplexing and the
optical dispersion compensator units are provided for
the individual channels of the signal light waves of the

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1 wavelengths in said optical transmission system.

53. An optical dispersion compensation method
5 as claimed in claim 51. wherein, when said optical
transmission system performs optical wavelength
multiplex transmission to multiplex and transmit signal
light waves of a plurality of channels having different
wavelengths, the signal light waves are demultiplexed
10 for each one wave by wavelength demultiplexing and the
optical dispersion compensator units are provided for
the individual channels of the signal light waves of the
wavelengths in said optical transmission system.

15 54. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 50. wherein, when said optical
transmission system performs optical wavelength
multiplex transmission to multiplex and transmit signal
20 light waves of a plurality of channels having different
wavelengths, the signal light waves are demultiplexed
for each plurality of waves and the optical dispersion
compensator units are provided for the individual
channel groups each including a plurality of signal
25 light waves in said optical transmission system.

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56. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 50, wherein, when said optical
transmission system performs optical wavelength
multiplex transmission to multiplex and transmit signal
light waves of a plurality of channels having different
wavelengths, the optical dispersion compensator units
are provided for all of the signal light waves of the
plurality of channels in said optical transmission
system.

57. An optical dispersion compensation method
25 as claimed in claim 51, wherein, when said optical
transmission system performs optical wavelength
multiplex transmission to multiplex and transmit signal

1 light waves of a plurality of channels having different
wavelengths. the optical dispersion compensator units
are provided for all of the signal light waves of the
plurality of channels in said optical transmission
5 system.

58. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 50. wherein each of the optical
10 dispersion compensator units is additionally provided
with an optical amplifier for compensating for an
optical loss of the optical dispersion compensator unit.

59. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 51. wherein each of the optical
15 dispersion compensator units is additionally provided
with an optical amplifier for compensating for an
optical loss of the optical dispersion compensator unit.

20 60. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 52. wherein each of the optical
dispersion compensator units is additionally provided
25 with an optical amplifier for compensating for an
optical loss of the optical dispersion compensator unit.

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61. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 53, wherein each of the optical
dispersion compensator units is additionally provided
with an optical amplifier for compensating for an
optical loss of the optical dispersion compensator unit.

62. An optical dispersion compensation method as claimed in claim 54, wherein each of the optical dispersion compensator units is additionally provided with an optical amplifier for compensating for an optical loss of the optical dispersion compensator unit.

15 63. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 55, wherein each of the optical
dispersion compensator units is additionally provided
with an optical amplifier for compensating for an
optical loss of the optical dispersion compensator unit.

64. An optical dispersion compensation method as claimed in claim 56, wherein each of the optical dispersion compensator units is additionally provided with an optical amplifier for compensating for an optical loss of the optical dispersion compensator unit.

1 65. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 57, wherein each of the optical
dispersion compensator units is additionally provided
with an optical amplifier for compensating for an
5 optical loss of the optical dispersion compensator unit.

10 66. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 58, wherein a pair of optical
amplifiers are additionally provided at a preceding
stage and a next stage to each of the optical dispersion
compensator units.

15 67. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 59, wherein a pair of optical
amplifiers are additionally provided at a preceding
stage and a next stage to each of the optical dispersion
compensator units.

20 68. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 60, wherein a pair of optical
amplifiers are additionally provided at a preceding
25 stage and a next stage to each of the optical dispersion
compensator units.

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1 69. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 61, wherein a pair of optical
amplifiers are additionally provided at a preceding
stage and a next stage to each of the optical dispersion
5 compensator units.

10 70. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 62, wherein a pair of optical
amplifiers are additionally provided at a preceding
stage and a next stage to each of the optical dispersion
compensator units.

15 71. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 63, wherein a pair of optical
amplifiers are additionally provided at a preceding
stage and a next stage to each of the optical dispersion
compensator units.

20 72. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 64, wherein a pair of optical
amplifiers are additionally provided at a preceding
25 stage and a next stage to each of the optical dispersion
compensator units.

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1 73. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 65, wherein a pair of optical
amplifiers are additionally provided at a preceding
stage and a next stage to each of the optical dispersion
5 compensator units.

10 74. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 58, wherein the optical dispersion
compensator units are constructed as a package wherein
they are mounted on a circuit board so that the optical
dispersion compensator units are replaced or
incorporated in units of a package.

15 75. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 59, wherein the optical dispersion
compensator units are constructed as a package wherein
they are mounted on a circuit board so that the optical
20 dispersion compensator units are replaced or
incorporated in units of a package.

25 76. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 60, wherein the optical dispersion
compensator units are constructed as a package wherein
they are mounted on a circuit board so that the optical

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79. An optical dispersion compensation method as claimed in claim 63, wherein the optical dispersion compensator units are constructed as a package wherein they are mounted on a circuit board so that the optical

25 dispersion compensator units are replaced or incorporated in units of a package.

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84. An optical dispersion compensation method
as claimed in claim 83, wherein said switching means is
operated in response to a control signal from said
receiver to switch the combination of the optical
dispersion compensator units while a transmission
characteristic of said optical transmission system is
measured simultaneously by said receiver to determine a
combination of the optical dispersion compensator units
which provides an optimum transmission characteristic to

1 said optical ~~transmission system~~, and said switching
means is operated in response to another control signal
from said receiver to switch the combination of the
optical dispersion compensator units to the determined
5 combination which provides the optimum transmission
characteristic to said optical transmission system.

85. An optical dispersion compensation method
10 as claimed in claim 82, wherein said switching means
includes a mechanical switch.

86. An optical dispersion compensation method
15 as claimed in claim 83, wherein said switching means
includes a mechanical switch.

87. An optical dispersion compensation method
20 as claimed in claim 84, wherein said switching means
includes a mechanical switch.

88. An optical dispersion compensation method
25 as claimed in claim 82, wherein said switching means
includes an optical switch.

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